

GREAT WINE SEMINAR 2000

CHÂTEAU DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU et al.

Presented by François-Xavier Borie

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1995 *(*)**

Moderately dense dark red with purple rim. Fresh, youthful aroma of red fruits with skillfully integrated new oak. This shows superb breed. Fresh, clean, cool and poised on the palate. The finish reveals the class of this wine, with a touch of new oak. Excellent equilibrium and youthful, very fine-grained tannins.

Grand-Puy-Lacoste 1995 *(*)**

Moderately dense dark red with purple. Fresh, firm and rather closed nose with very good depth and red and black fruits beneath. Firm attack. Cool, fresh and dry. Classic young Pauillac, more forceful and tannic than Ducru.

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1989 **(+)**

Moderately dense garnet with a touch of brick. The nose shows some development together with warm richness and tarry, smoky notes. The attack is ripe and textured. The taste is less developed than the nose: still firm with an ending of dry tannin. Just beginning to show a long, complex, spicy finish.

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1986 **(*)**

Dark garnet with brick highlights. Deep, serious, complex nose dominated by black fruits. Superb on the palate: concentrated, layered, complex and lasting. Still plenty of structure. This is a keeper. Completely different from '82, but equally impressive.

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1982 **(*)**

Dark garnet with brick. Impressive and fragrant nose exhibiting dried spices, tobacco and leather. In the mouth, it shows the richness and fat of the vintage together with the harmony of Ducru. Has the tannin for further development. Developing delicious complexity in the finish.

Grand-Puy-Lacoste 1982 **(+)**

Moderately dense garnet to brick. Fantastic nose revealing intense leather and tobacco. Great intensity, focus and balance on the palate. Succulent tobacco-leather finish with ripe tannins. Textbook Pauillac in a very ripe year.

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1978 *+**

Paler brick. Lovely, open, scented with notes of cedar, tobacco and spice. Attractive complexity in the taste, but a bit firm, ending rather dry. Short of outstanding.

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1975 ****

Paling dark garnet with tawny rim. Scented, spicy, deep, rich and warm (especially for Médoc). Rather open, warm and spicy palate. The tannins remain dry as with most '75s. Still appealing, and well-suited to a rich meat dish.

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1970 *****

Paling brick with tawny rim. Attractively rich bouquet, with more fruit and charm than the '75. Lovely palate: round, ripe, harmonious and very long. At a perfect peak. Superb wine.

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1966 *****

Paling brick-tawny. Sweet, rich leathery nose with a high note. Round, rich and complex taste with leather and spices. Very harmonious. [The wine that inspired my choice of a career in wine, many years ago!]

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1961 ***?**

Pale tawny brick. Evolving nose losing its intensity, with a coffee note. The palate is weakening. I would have preferred it a few years earlier. However, the 1961 was the most popular wine with the audience. Was there bottle variation?

Ducru-Beaucaillou 1959 *****

Dark mahogany garnet. Very deep, rich nose indicating its earlier ripeness, accented by a truffle note. Mature but not old taste: warm, rich and fat. A lovely and satisfying wine. This may hold for a few more years.